

"Among Thorns" Heart Condition" is a heart where the word of God co-exists with the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches.

Today's Focus:
"Among Thorns" Heart Condition, Pt. 2

We want to look at how *the deceitfulness of riches* grows alongside God's word in our hearts and choke the word.

Matthew 13:7, 22

What is the deceitfulness of riches?

It is how Satan deceives people with money, depending on their economic condition.

3 Economic Conditions

- 1. People who are barely making money.*
- 2. People who are beginning to make money.*
- 3. People who are already rich*

Deception #1 focuses on: *People who are barely making it or people who don't have enough.*

Deception #1: *Everything would be fine if we just had a little more money.*

- 1 Timothy 6:5-10

Deception #2 focuses on: People who are beginning to make money and experiencing an increase.

Deception #2: I have become rich because I have been working hard.

- Deuteronomy 8:10-18

Deception #3 focuses on: People who are already rich.

Deception #3: I am rich I am secure, and I need nothing

- 1 Timothy 6:17
- Revelation 3:17-18

Examples of people who were deceived by wealth

- Achan – Joshua 6-7
- Ananias & Sapphira – Acts 5
- Rich Young Ruler - Matthew 19:16-26
- Rich fool - Luke 12:13-21

Right Attitude to Wealth

- Prioritize your first love.
- Put wealth in perspective.
- Pursue wealth honestly.

Growth Group Discussion

For the Week of March 3, 2024

LOOKING BACK

1. *Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

LOOKING AHEAD

2. *We learned that the deceitfulness of wealth can grow in our hearts and destroy our hearts. What has been your attitude towards wealth and how have you ensured it did not become a thorn in your heart?*

DIGGING DEEPER

3. *Examine the following people and their stories. What drove their hunger for money and deceived them?*
 - a. *Achan – Joshua 7*
 - b. *Ananias & Sapphira – Acts 5*
 - c. *Rich Young Ruler - Matthew 19:16-26*
 - d. *Rich fool - Luke 12:13-21*

APPLYING THE LESSON TO MY LIFE

4. *Knowing what you know now, how can you guard against 'thorns' growing with the word in your heart?*

PRAYER TIME

5. *Ask God to reveal to you where you are concerning riches. Show me my heart oh! Lord. Help me to develop the right attitude to riches!*